

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

The present invention relates to an improved parking brake apparatus which is operable independently of fluid pressure. That is, the apparatus includes a parking brake of a type which does not employ fluid pressure for generating parking brake forces. The parking brake apparatus also comprises an electric driver (see the disclosed preferred electric driver 21, 22) which produces drive forces that are transmitted (preferably by a wire mechanism 30) to cause a friction member to be driven in order to generate a braking force.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an electric parking brake apparatus operable independently of pressurized fluid, comprising a parking brake of a type which does not utilize pressurized fluid for generating parking brake force.

Claim 1 was rejected over Siepker. However, Siepker discloses a different type of brake apparatus from that presently claimed. That is, Siepker's brake apparatus is not operable independently of pressurized fluid because an important aspect of Siepker's invention involves a hydraulic connection 4 between the electric drive means 1 and the friction member. Thus, unlike Siepker's apparatus, the presently claimed apparatus can be provided and utilized completely independently of a hydraulic system.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 distinguishes patentably over Siepker.

Dependent claim 14 recites that the pressure-contact-force-related quantity recited in claim 1 is the tension of a wire which presses the friction member to the rotation member. Siepker never discloses how the brake-driving force is transmitted

in his system. Accordingly, it is not seen how claim 14 could be considered as anticipated by Siepker.

Support for the expression "independently of pressurized fluid" now used in the present claims is clear from the original disclosure in which no pressurized fluid is provided as a part of the parking brake apparatus.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: October 21, 2005

By:


Alan E. Kopecki
Registration No. 25,813

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620